

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 28 May 2017



Responsorial Psalm

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.
Alleluia

REFLECTION

In today's First Reading the Lord takes the apostles out of the city of Jerusalem before his Ascension. He leaves them on the road, where they are rebuked by "two men in white", by which Luke the Gospel's author means angels. The apostles are left standing on the road, staring up into Heaven, but they seem to have forgotten about their new role. They are apostles, a name which means "sent out". They respond by returning to Jerusalem and spend their time praising God there. The story of the Acts of the Apostles is a story of how the Church is forced out of Jerusalem. After the martyrdom of Saint Stephen, the first martyr, many were scattered, a term used in the Book of Genesis to describe how the people were scattered after they had challenged God by building the tower of Babel. This is no accident. After the scattering of God's people they no longer shared a common language. Yet Pentecost had allowed people to hear the Word of God in their own language. Pentecost did not reverse this separation but allowed the separation to be overcome. So the Church has to go out on the road and bring the Good News to the world. Saint Paul is converted on the road from Jerusalem, the same road from which Jesus rose to Heaven. The Church is always meant to be "on the road". We are meant to be travelling people, with a faith that can change all the time. We are not meant to be staring up to Heaven all the time, but sharing our faith with others. As the angels in the Gospel say to the apostles, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here?" They had a more important role to fulfil as we do today.

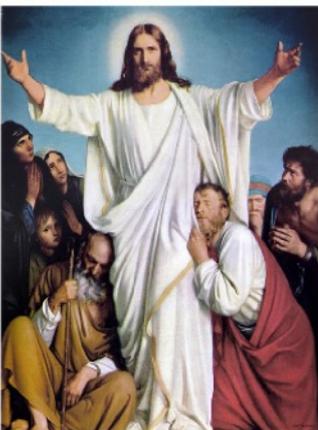
Some people travel all over the world but never really go anywhere. That is, they may visit places but do they truly experience everything about the area? – the people, the culture, the food, etc. A person can travel the whole world but never really reach out to others. Yet some people spend their whole time in one place yet they stretch out their hearts to all humanity. This is the power of prayer. When we say that God is everywhere, we mean that God's touch is everywhere and sustains all things in being. In prayer we share in this reaching out. Many of us will have been traumatized by the scenes in Manchester on our TV screens this week. We wonder how one person could hate others so much that they would want to hurt or kill innocent people. We must remember all those who died in our thoughts and prayers every day. It reminds us that this world is a dangerous and very fragmented place. Yet amongst the sadness, the anger and the loss, we have seen the great outpouring of love and friendship amongst the people of Manchester and beyond. Just like the apostles we have to reach out to others, to share the love of Jesus with them and help make our world a better place. As we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension this weekend, let us pray that we may help those who are hurt and afraid at this time with the hope and the consolation that this feast brings to us, that one day we will follow Jesus to Heaven and remind others that there are lots of good, loving and caring people in our world, illustrated by the people who helped others in Manchester this week.

LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA

www.leighdeanery.co.uk

St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish

St. Joseph,
Sacred Heart,
Twelve Apostles,
and
Our Lady of the
Rosary
churches



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS ST JOSEPH'S

MASSES

Boone & Campbell Families, Joan Ganley, Norah Hurst, Vincent & Peter Lythgoe, Kath Trundle, James Unsworth, St Jude Favour Asked, St Jude Thanksgiving,

THE HOLY ROSARY

The Rosary will be prayed after Mass each weekday until the end of May.

HYMN BOOKS

If you need to borrow a hymn book for any reason, would you please ask at the parish office to borrow one of the spare books and not take a dedicated hymn book. Thank you.

GARDENING DAY

Thank you to all who came to do the garden last Saturday, the grounds are looking lovely!

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

PIETY STALL

There is a collection of gifts and cards available for First Holy Communion on the Piety Stall.

GARDENING DAY

Many thanks to all who help with the garden. We go every Tuesday at 10.00am, weather permitting. Please come along, even if you only have an hour to spare.

COFFEE MORNING

Tae and coffee is served after Mass every first Sunday. Come along and join us for a chat. Everyone welcome.

SACRED HEART

FIRST COMMUNION

On this last Sunday of May, the remainder of our Year 4 children will make their First Holy Communion. We welcome them and their families. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue in their journey of faith. Please note that the first few benches at the front of the church are reserved for our children and their families.

REPOSITORY

Communion cards and small gifts are still available in the little shop and in the baptistery at the back of church.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

May 25 - With the Ascension of Jesus, we participate in the fullness of life with God. Let us carry this in our hearts in our daily lives.

May 24 - Let us pray with Catholics in China, entrusting ourselves to Mary, for the grace to endure patiently and overcome challenges with love.

May 23 - Dialogue allows us to plan for a future in common. Through dialogue we build peace, taking care of everyone.

May 22 - We are called to live not as one without others, above or against others, but with and for others.

May 21 - Mary teaches us to place our hope in God even when all seems without meaning, even when He seems hidden.

May 20 - Peace must be built on justice, on integral human development, on respect for human rights, on the protection of creation.

May 19 - Let us seek to always hold high the "tone" of our life, remembering the goal and glory for which we exist, work, struggle and suffer.



Reflect:

Today's Gospel reminds us that as Christians our directive is to reach out to others and tell them about the Gospel message, we should teach them how to observe the commands Jesus has given to us.

The Gospel message is a message of joy and hope for all peoples, no matter who they are. Jesus's commandment is to 'Love one another as I have loved you' - not just the people we know or meet every day, those with whom we are comfortable, but also those who we are unsure of, those we are wary of, those who challenge us, those who hate us.

Sounds scary doesn't it? But the other part of today's Gospel reminds us that Jesus is always with us 'to the end of time'. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit, who gives us the courage faith and trust to meet the sometimes difficult or awkward challenges that face us.

Pray:

Creator God, create us anew!

Teach us respect for your wonderful world, awareness of the earth's resources, compassion for the needy, and gratitude for our daily blessings. (Jonathan Leach CAFOD)

Act:

In every single person we encounter we either come face to face with the presence of Jesus, because of that person's sheer goodness, love, generosity, compassion, courage, concern for others... or we see someone who is deeply in need of the touch of Jesus because of their evil or inappropriate behaviour, their hates, resentments, their violence, or on the other hand, their weakness, sickness, loneliness, despair. This week try to be fully aware of each person encountered. Celebrate the presence of Jesus in them or Touch them with the presence of Jesus in you

Challenge:

'I am with you always'.... Do we always see Jesus in our lives? Do we see him in the little things - in the beauty of the earth, in the breath of the wind, in the touch of the rain, in the song of the birds, in the voice of those we meet, in the grace of the present moment? Open our minds to you Lord in all things and all people.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £ 1,977.52
Priests' Training Fund £ total not yet received

This weekend there will be a retiring collection in all our churches for the purpose of World Communications.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2017

... is celebrated on Sunday 28th May. The theme is 'Communicating Hope and Trust in our Time' and its inspiration comes from Scripture - Isaiah 43:5 "Fear not, for I am with you."

SICK

Colette Allerston, Eileen Boardman, Sr. Teresa Frost, Mary Heneghan, Bernadette Higgins, Kitty Jones, Arthur Lowe, Josie & Aiden Newill.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Angela Bailey, Carolyn Burke, Norah Hurst, Jeff Martland, Eternal rest grant unto them ...

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to:-
Jakub Hubert Kus.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to John Paul Dickinson & Katie Lesley Johnson who were married at St Joseph's on the 20th May 2017.

ARC Renewal Conference/Gathering

5th -12th August 2017
Bewerley Park, North Yorkshire HG3 5JB

"I realise now how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right"
Acts 10:34-35

A relaxed conference catering for all
Established for 34 years, we offer; daily talks, children's groups, Youth groups, Mass, worship and many opportunities to share in community life.
Excellent facilities on site - low cost camping and residential (some en suite) disabled (en suite) places available.

Contact Caroline Shevelan or Chris Rolfe-Moore
07769680259 crolfemoore@hotmail.co

EASTER

During Easter we are asked to pray for these intentions:
New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work.

World Communications Day Sunday 28 May
The Church especially at Pentecost Sunday 4 June

NORTHERN SAINTS PILGRIMAGE

Visiting Lindisfarne, Seahouses and Durham, Monday 18th to Thursday 21st September 2017, led by Fr Ron Johnson. £295 per person. Please call 0151 733 5492 for further information.

RESPONSE TO THE ARCHBISHOP'S LETTER

Many thanks to all those who managed to come along to the meeting at Saint Joseph's on Wednesday in response to the Archbishop's letter that we received a few weeks ago. Many good ideas were put forward and lots of sharing took place by people from across the Pastoral Area. We perhaps needed a much longer meeting. There will be inevitable changes in the future. Notes from the meeting will be compiled and circulated in all the churches in the next few weeks. It is clear that we

need some kind of ongoing working party to take the discussions forward. So please watch this space for more details.

FR NEIL RITCHIE

Fr. Neil, former Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Rosary and Twelve Apostles, will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination on Saturday, 3rd June at St Philip Neri church, 30 Catharine Street, Liverpool, L8 7NL, with Mass at 12 noon followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome. If there are quite a few people who want to go, a coach will be hired. There is a list at the back of church for people to sign.

JUSTICE AND PEACE

Next meeting at Saint Richard's (house), 7.30pm on Wednesday, 31st May. All welcome.

BE A CHORISTER FOR A DAY

Sunday 18th June 2017, 10.30am to 4.00pm is for boys in Years 2 and 4,
Sunday 25th June 2017 10.30am - 4.00pm is for girls in Year 5

Be a Chorister for a Day is for children who like like singing, hard work and having fun.

Spend the day at the Metropolitan Cathedral with the choristers singing, playing, eating and exploring. This is an opportunity to find out what being a chorister is all about. For more details and to registers you place contact the Cathedral Music Office 0151 708 7283 music@metcathedral.org.uk

THE GENERAL ELECTION

At the back of church there are copies of a letter from the Bishops of England and Wales offering some guidance when considering who to vote for. Please take a copy.

St Stephen's presents its Summer Concert

Spanish Connection

Salva Contreras Gila (Clarinet)

+

Javier Navascues (Cello)

10th June 2017

7.00 for 7.30pm Admission £10.00

Wine Bar + Raffle

St Stephen's, Manchester Rd Astley

May we wish all our children and school staff a very happy and restful half term holiday.



MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

12A = Twelve Apostles, StJ = Saint Joseph, SH = Sacred Heart, OLR = Our Lady of the Rosary, StR = St Richard, Atherton

Sat 27 May

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

Sun 28 May

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

World Communications Day

StJ 8.30am

MASS Terence & John Donohue (anniv.)

SH 9.30am

MASS James Flanagan L.D.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Patricia Brandwood (anniv.)

OLR **11.15am**

MASS Ann Harman (anniv.)

StR 6.30pm

SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Mon 29 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am

MASS Bernadette & Family

Tue 30 May

Weekday of Easter

SH 12.00noon

MASS 'A' level exam. success

Wed 31 May

FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

12A

NO MASS

StJ 11.00am

FUNERAL MASS Angela Bailey

SH 12.00noon

FUNERAL MASS Norah Hurst

Thu 1 June

Memorial of Saint Justin, Martyr

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am

MASS Gerald Gibbon R.I.P.

SH 12.00noon

MASS James Mannion (anniv.)

Fri 2 June

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

(OLR) 10.00am

MASS at MOSS BANK COURT Alice Flannery L.D.

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Thanksgiving St Jude

Sat 3 June

Memorial of Saints Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs

SH 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon

MASS Ann Marsh (anniv.)

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY John Robinson

Sun 4 June

PENTECOST SUNDAY

StJ 8.30am

MASS Ken Sroka R.I.P.

SH 9.30am

MASS Monica Pugh L.D.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Brian Ashton (anniv.)

OLR 11.00am

MASS Agnes Wilkinson L.D.

StR 6.30pm

SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on 19th May were 5, 17, 24. There was no winner of £28. Last Friday's jackpot was estimated at £60. There will be no draw on 2nd June on account of school's half-term holiday.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 265 C & T Ellis, £5 No. 194 C Baker, £3 No. 339 M Roach, £2 No. 422 M Moore

Bonus Ball No. 16 M Collins

ST. EDMUND ARROWSMITH PARISH OFFICE

The office for the administration of our parish is based in St. Joseph's presbytery, Mather Lane. Email stjosephs@live.com or telephone 01942 673517 weekdays 8.30 - 4.00pm and speak to the parish secretary. In case of pastoral emergency only at other times you may contact any available member of the pastoral area team, if necessary even Fr Paul Seddon or Fr Paul Grady who are based in St. Margaret Clitherow parish.

PASTORAL AREA TEAM

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
Tel: 01942 673517/01942 731679

Email: kjmogrady@hotmail.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Grady

Tel: 0161 790 2390

Email: frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson, Dennis Vint

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey

Tel: 01942 673517/ 01942 731280

Email: stjosephs@live.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

Tel: 01942 883395

Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

